



# CO oxidation over supported Pt/Cr<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts and their good tolerance to CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Keywords:

CO oxidation  
Pt catalyst  
Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solid solution  
Corundum structure  
CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O tolerant

## ABSTRACT

Pt catalysts supported on a series of Cr<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>3</sub> composite oxides with different Cr/Fe molar ratios were prepared and tested for CO oxidation. The Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst possesses the best performance (with a turnover frequency of ca. 0.2 s<sup>-1</sup> at 80 °C under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> condition), due to its best reducibility which was related to the solid solution structure of the support. The catalyst also shows good stability in the presence of both 10% CO<sub>2</sub> and 10% H<sub>2</sub>O. Detailed kinetic results and staged reaction indicate that CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O play opposite roles in the reaction. The inhibiting role of CO<sub>2</sub> is due to competitive adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> with CO and the formation of carbonate species. However, the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O could effectively decompose the carbonate and sustain the catalyst stability. Moreover, the promoting role of H<sub>2</sub>O could be mainly attributed to the weakened strength of CO adsorption and the fast interfacial reaction between CO and the surface hydroxyl groups formed via H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation, as revealed by the X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy, CO temperature-programmed desorption and the kinetic results.

## 1. Introduction

Catalytic CO oxidation over various catalyst systems such as Au [1–5] and Pt [6–10] has been extensively investigated as an ideal model reaction to probe the structure - performance relation and the nature of active sites [11]. This reaction has also been practically applied in automotive exhaust abatement [12] and proton exchange membrane fuel cell (PEMFC) [13]. In general, CO oxidation in model reaction is usually conducted under dry condition (CO + O<sub>2</sub>), while the reactants in practical conditions contain large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O (i.e. higher than 10 vol.%) in addition to CO and O<sub>2</sub> [14]. Consequently, the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or H<sub>2</sub>O exerts remarkable influences in the behaviors of the catalysts, and in most cases dramatic catalyst deactivation is observed [15–18], particularly in the presence of both CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. The inhibiting role of CO<sub>2</sub> has been unequivocally attributed to the blockage of active sites by the competitive adsorption of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> and the formation of surface carbonate species [19]. However, the role of H<sub>2</sub>O is debatable. Landen et al. [20] reported that the addition of 4 wt.% H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed stream drastically suppressed the CO conversion from 40% to less than 5% on a Au/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst at 25 °C. Similar deactivation was also observed on the Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst, as the addition of 5 vol. % H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed decreased the CO conversion [15]. In contrast, more works on either Au [21,22] or Pt [23,24] catalysts reveal obvious promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O, which is believed to be due to the

decomposition of surface carbonate species by moisture and/or the involvement of H<sub>2</sub>O/hydroxyl groups in CO oxidation [25]. However, it must be noted that such promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O could be achieved only at low H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations, while at high concentrations, the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O could inhibit the activity. For example, Ojeda et al. [26] found that the CO oxidation activity over a Au/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst continuously increased in H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations from 0.03 - 0.5 vol. %; however, the activity declined at high H<sub>2</sub>O concentrations (> 0.5 vol. %), which was attributed to the competitive adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O and CO.

For the purpose of practical application, the catalyst stability under realistic conditions is extremely important. Unfortunately, the commonly observed catalyst deactivation as above-mentioned makes this target very challenging. Iron oxide (FeO<sub>x</sub>) is a promising support or promoter for noble metals (such as Au, Pt and Ir) for CO oxidation due to its ability to supplying or generating active oxygen species [27–29]. However, such FeO<sub>x</sub>-containing catalysts usually deactivate rapidly in the presence of large amount of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or H<sub>2</sub>O [20]. One possible approach to overcome this disadvantage is to modify the FeO<sub>x</sub> support because it could significantly alter the catalyst properties and consequently catalytic behaviors [18]. On the other hand, chromium oxide (CrO<sub>x</sub>) has also been used as an effective component in CO oxidation. For example, Xanthopoulos and Vekinis [30] reported that the Cu-Cr-O spinel oxide is an promising support for Pd, which gives much higher activity than the Pd/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in CO oxidation. Moreover, the spinel oxide

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2018.12.054>

Received 9 August 2018; Received in revised form 26 November 2018; Accepted 22 December 2018

Available online 27 December 2018

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itself (support alone without Pd) has comparable activity as the Pd/ $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  catalyst in CO oxidation due to the synergy between Cr and Cu species. Pantaleo et al. [31] also reported that the formation of Cu-Cr-O mixed oxides are beneficial for the improvement of CO oxidation activity. Particularly, the Cr-based mixed oxides show some good resistance to  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , as our previous work [32] demonstrated the highly active  $\text{CoCr}_2\text{O}_4$  spinel oxides are stable for  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  combustion in the presence of 12,000 ppm water vapor. These findings in literature inspire us that a combination of Cr and Fe might show some potential in the synthesis of active and stable catalysts for CO oxidation under realistic conditions. Therefore, in this work, we synthesized a series of  $\text{Cr}_x\text{Fe}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$  composite oxides as the supports for Pt catalysts, and the main target of the current work is to investigate whether these catalysts are stable in the presence of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in the CO oxidation environment. Indeed, it is found that some catalysts with specific Cr/Fe molar ratios show very good performance under dry condition ( $\text{CO} + \text{O}_2$ ), which is better than that supported on bare  $\text{CrO}_x$  or  $\text{FeO}_x$ . The most interesting finding is that some catalysts are highly tolerant to the high concentrations of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , which makes them potential in practical applications. Moreover, detailed kinetic investigation is carried out to explain the behaviors of the catalysts under different reaction conditions (i.e.  $\text{CO} + \text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{CO} + \text{O}_2 + \text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CO} + \text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{CO} + \text{O}_2 + \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). Based on the experimental results, the roles of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  are discussed.

## 2. Experimental

### 2.1. Catalyst preparation

The  $\text{Cr}_x\text{Fe}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$  composite oxides with different Cr/Fe molar ratios (4/1, 2/1, 1/1 and 1/4) were prepared using a sol-gel method.  $\text{Cr}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (99.8%),  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (99.5%) and citric acid (99.0%) with a citric acid / (Cr + Fe) molar ratio of 2 were dissolved in deionized water, which was then slowly heated at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  until a viscous gel was formed. The dry gels were dried at  $120^\circ\text{C}$  for 12 h and calcination at  $500^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h to obtain the supports, which were denoted as  $\text{Cr}_x\text{Fe}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$ . The pure  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  oxides were prepared with a similar manner, using  $\text{Cr}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{Fe}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 9\text{H}_2\text{O}$  as the precursors, respectively.

The Pt catalysts supported on the oxides were prepared by an incipient wetness impregnation and the nominal Pt content was 2 wt.%. For example, 4.9 g of the support was immersed by 20 ml of  $\text{Pt}(\text{NO}_3)_2$  aqueous solution with a Pt content of  $0.005 \text{ g ml}^{-1}$ . After the mixture was kept at r.t. for 3 h, it was evaporated at  $90^\circ\text{C}$  in a water bath and dried at  $100^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h and calcined at  $300^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h to obtain the final catalyst. The catalysts were denoted as  $\text{Pt}/\text{Cr}_x\text{Fe}_{2-x}\text{O}_3$ . For comparison, a Pt supported on a mechanically mixed  $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  with a nominal Cr/Fe molar ratio of ca. 2 was also prepared in a similar manner for comparison, and it was denoted as  $\text{Pt}/1.3\text{CrO}_x\text{-}0.7\text{FeO}_x$ .

### 2.2. Catalyst characterizations

The actual contents of the metal elements in the catalysts were determined by inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) on an IRIS Intrepid 2 instrument. The specific surface areas of the supports and catalysts were measured by  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption at 77 K on a surface area analyzer (Quantachrome Autosorb-1). X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) patterns of the catalysts were recorded on a powder X-ray diffractometer (Bruker D8 ADVANCE), operated at 40 kV and 40 mA, using  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  radiation. The average crystallite sizes and the lattice parameters of the samples were analyzed by the Topas software.

High-resolution transmission electron microscopy images of the catalysts were obtained on a JEM-2100F microscopy operated at 200 kV. The samples were reduced at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h in 5%  $\text{H}_2$ -95% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ). Hydrogen temperature-programmed reduction ( $\text{H}_2$ -TPR) experiments were carried out in a home-made apparatus. Ten mg

of the catalyst was loaded in a quartz reactor and was heated from r.t. to  $800^\circ\text{C}$  ( $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ ) in a 5%  $\text{H}_2$  - 95%  $\text{N}_2$  gas ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ). The  $\text{H}_2$  consumption signal was recorded by a thermal conductivity detector (TCD), which was quantified by the reduction of  $\text{CuO}$  powder with a known amount.

X-ray photoelectron spectra (XPS) of the catalysts were measured on an ESCALAB 250Xi instrument, using an Al  $\text{K}\alpha$  X-ray source (1486.6 eV). The binding energies (BEs) of the surface species were calibrated using C1 s core level at BE of 284.8 eV. For the measurement of the pre-reduced catalyst, the catalyst was reduced with an 5% $\text{H}_2$  - 95%  $\text{N}_2$  mixture ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h in a pretreatment chamber. After cooling down, it was transferred to the analysis. For the treatment of  $\text{CO}_2$ , after the pre-reduced sample (5%  $\text{H}_2$  - 95%  $\text{N}_2$  mixture ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h) was cooled down to  $80^\circ\text{C}$ , it was exposed to a flow of 10%  $\text{CO}_2$  + 90%  $\text{N}_2$  for 1 h and then transferred to the analysis chamber. After the analysis, the sample was again moved to the pretreatment chamber and exposed to 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor + 90%  $\text{N}_2$  at  $80^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h and transferred to the analysis chamber. Note that the above-mentioned procedures were performed inside the instrument without being exposed to air.

CO temperature-programmed desorption (CO-TPD) experiments were carried out on a quartz reactor. Fifty mg of the catalyst was pretreated with 10%  $\text{O}_2$  - 90% He ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) and subsequent pure He ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $300^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, then it was cooled down to  $30^\circ\text{C}$  and purged for 30 min in a He flow ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ). A flow of 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 99% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) or 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 10%  $\text{CO}_2$  + 89% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ), or 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor - 89% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) was then introduced for 30 min. The catalyst was purged by a He flow ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) for 30 min to remove the gas phase or weakly adsorbed molecules, and was heated from 30 to  $400^\circ\text{C}$  at a ramp of  $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$  in the He flow. The desorption signals of CO and  $\text{CO}_2$  were recorded by a mass spectrometer (MS, HIDEN QIC-20) at  $m/e = 28$  and 44, respectively. To investigate the CO desorption behaviors under the real condition (as the catalyst was pre-reduced before reaction), the sample was also pretreated with 10%  $\text{O}_2$  - 90% He ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) and subsequent 10%  $\text{H}_2$  - 90% He ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, then it was cooled down to  $30^\circ\text{C}$  and purged for 30 min in a He flow ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ). And the above described procedure was performed.  $\text{O}_2$  temperature-programmed desorption ( $\text{O}_2$ -TPD) experiments were carried out on the same equipment as in the CO-TPD. One hundred mg of the sample was loaded and pretreated with 10%  $\text{O}_2$  + 90% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $300^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h and cooled down to  $30^\circ\text{C}$ . The sample was then purged with Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) until the MS signal is stabilized, and was heated from 30 to  $600^\circ\text{C}$  with a ramp of  $10^\circ\text{C min}^{-1}$ , and the desorption signal of  $\text{O}_2$  was recorded at  $m/e = 32$ . The sample was also pretreated with 10%  $\text{O}_2$  + 90% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $300^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h followed by 10%  $\text{H}_2$  + 90% Ar ( $30 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h, and the above described procedure was performed.

### 2.3. CO oxidation and kinetic investigation

The reaction was conducted in a tubular quartz reactor (i.d. = 6 mm) at atmospheric pressure. Fifty mg of the catalyst (particle size = 0.12 - 0.15 mm) diluted with 100 mg of quartz sand with same size was loaded in the reactor. Before reaction, the catalyst was pre-reduced with a flow of 5% $\text{H}_2$  - 95% Ar ( $15 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$ ) at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  for 1 h. After it was cooled down to certain temperature and a gas mixture consisting of 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 1%  $\text{O}_2$  + 98%  $\text{N}_2$ , or 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 1%  $\text{O}_2$  + 10%  $\text{CO}_2$  + 88%  $\text{N}_2$ , or 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 1%  $\text{O}_2$  + 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  + 88%  $\text{N}_2$ , or 1%  $\text{CO}$  + 1%  $\text{O}_2$  + 10%  $\text{CO}_2$  + 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  + 88%  $\text{N}_2$  was introduced with a total flow rate of  $100 \text{ ml min}^{-1}$  (space velocity (S.V.) =  $120,000 \text{ ml g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$ ). The 10%  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor was introduced by passing the reactants through a saturated  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor generator at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ . Besides, possible condensation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  vapor in the line was avoided by keeping the inlet line at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ . The CO concentration in the reactants was analyzed by a GC (Agilent 6850) equipped with a TCD detector.

The reaction kinetics were conducted on the same reactor as in the

**Table 1**  
Physical properties of various catalysts.

Catalyst	Pt content / wt. %	Cr/Fe molar ratio	$S_{\text{BET}}$ / $\text{m}^2 \text{g}^{-1}$	Bulk phase <sup>a</sup>	Crystal. size <sup>a</sup> / nm	Pt size <sup>b</sup> / nm	Pt dispersion <sup>c</sup>	TOF <sup>d</sup> / $\times 10^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$
Pt/Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.92	–	31.5	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	25.4	1.9 ± 0.4	0.58	22.3
Pt/Cr <sub>1.6</sub> Fe <sub>0.4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.34	3.98	17.2	Cr <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	42.6	2.1 ± 0.8	0.52	31.2
Pt/Cr <sub>1.3</sub> Fe <sub>0.7</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.05	2.04	14.6	Cr <sub>1.3</sub> Fe <sub>0.7</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	55.3	2.0 ± 0.9	0.55	202.5
Pt/Cr <sub>1.0</sub> Fe <sub>1.0</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.18	1.15	52.1	$\gamma$ -Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	14.0	1.7 ± 0.4	0.65	141.8
Pt/Cr <sub>0.4</sub> Fe <sub>1.6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2.51	0.24	46.4	$\gamma$ -Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	17.5	2.0 ± 0.7	0.55	138.0
Pt/Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	1.94	–	18.2	$\alpha$ -Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	41.8	2.6 ± 0.6	0.42	99.7
Pt/1.3CrO <sub>x</sub> -0.7FeO <sub>x</sub>	2.17	2.11	28.1	–	–	–	–	–

<sup>a</sup>: Determined by XRD; <sup>b</sup>: Determined by HRTEM; <sup>c</sup>: Dispersion =  $1.1/d_{\text{Pt}}$  ( $d_{\text{Pt}}$  = Pt particle size in nm); <sup>d</sup>: TOF calculated based on Pt dispersion and reaction rate at 80 °C.

catalytic testing. The partial pressures of the feed gases (0.30–3.04 kPa for CO and O<sub>2</sub>, 1.01–15.15 kPa for CO<sub>2</sub> and 3.03–15.15 kPa for H<sub>2</sub>O) were adjusted by mass flow controllers and balanced by N<sub>2</sub> to keep the total flow rate constant (100 ml min<sup>−1</sup>). Low CO conversions (less than 15%) and the absence of mass and heat transfer limitations ensured the reaction was in kinetic region (See Supporting Information for detailed calculations).

### 3. Results and discussion

#### 3.1. Characterization results

Table 1 shows that the actual Pt contents in the supported catalysts are very close to the nominal values (2 wt. %). Also the Cr/Fe ratios in the catalysts are close to their corresponding nominal values. The catalysts have surface areas of 14.6–52.1 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>−1</sup>, depending on their compositions.

The XRD patterns of the supported catalysts (Fig. 1) show no diffractions related to Pt species, suggesting that those species are highly dispersed on the supports. The patterns of the Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>1.6</sub>Fe<sub>0.4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts give diffractions at 2 $\theta$  of 24.5, 33.6, 36.2, 41.5, 50.3, 54.8, 58.3, 63.3 and 64.9° assigning to eskolaite with corundum structure (Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, JCPDS No. 38-1479), although the intensities of the peaks are different for the two samples. The pattern of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is similar to those of the Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>1.6</sub>Fe<sub>0.4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, but the diffractions systematically shift to lower angle by 0.1–0.2°. The pattern fits well with the structure of chromium iron oxide (Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, JCPDS No. 35-1112), which is a solid solution compound

with Fe atoms substitute in the Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> matrix (see Fig. S1 for the structural details). The lattice parameters of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.6</sub>Fe<sub>0.4</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are 0.4978/0.4978/1.3618 nm, which is larger than those of the Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (0.4965/0.4965/1.3613 nm) because the ionic radius of Fe<sup>3+</sup> (0.0645 nm) is larger than that of the Cr<sup>3+</sup> (0.0615 nm). However, with increasing Fe content in the support, the XRD patterns of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.0</sub>Fe<sub>1.0</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>0.4</sub>Fe<sub>1.6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are different from those with low Fe contents. The diffractions at 2 $\theta$  of 30.4, 33.4, 35.8, 43.6, 54.2, 57.6 and 63.3° are assigned to maghemite ( $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, JCPDS No. 25-1402). In contrast, the Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> gives diffractions at 2 $\theta$  of 24.2, 33.2, 35.6, 40.9, 49.5, 54.1, 57.6 and 62.5°, which are assigned to hematite ( $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, JCPDS No. 33-0664). The XRD results clearly indicate that the structural properties vary due to different Cr/Fe molar ratios. Since there is no detection of the mixture of Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> oxides in these samples, the samples (except for the bare Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) are in forms of solid-solution-like structure. It is worth noting that the crystal phase changes from Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-based oxide to Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-based oxide when the Cr/Fe molar ratio is less than 1/1. Particularly, the Pt/Cr<sub>1.0</sub>Fe<sub>1.0</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>0.4</sub>Fe<sub>1.6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts have a crystal phase of  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> while the Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has a crystal phase of  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. It is reported that the  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> phase could transform to  $\alpha$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> when the oxide is thermally treated at 400–500 °C in air [33]. Therefore, it seems that the cooperation of Cr ions in the Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> matrix could somehow stabilize the  $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> phase under high temperature calcination. Also, the crystallite size analyses (Table 1) revealed that the Pt/Cr<sub>1.0</sub>Fe<sub>1.0</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has the smallest size (14.0 nm) while the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has the largest (55.3 nm).

The HRTEM images of the pre-reduced catalysts (Fig. 2) show that the Pt particles in all catalysts are rather small (1.7–2.6 nm, Table 1). The observation of small Pt particles are in good agreement with the XRD results (Fig. 1), as there is no diffraction of Pt species could be observed. In turn, the Pt dispersions in the catalysts are calculated to be 0.42–0.65 (Table 1).

The H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of the supports (Fig. 3a) show that the Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> gives overlapped reduction peaks at 200–300 °C due to the reduction of CrO<sub>3</sub> to Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [34], while the addition of Fe in the support brings an additional reduction peak centered at ca. 380 °C due to the reduction of Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> to Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> [35]. The overlapped reduction of the Cr<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>3</sub> samples in 200–400 °C region suggests the simultaneous reduction of CrO<sub>x</sub> and FeO<sub>x</sub> oxides. Moreover, the profile of the Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is very different from that of the mechanically mixed 1.3CrO<sub>3</sub>-0.7FeO<sub>x</sub>, which clearly implies the very differences in the structural properties of these two sample. The Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> support gives peaks centered at 391 and 629 °C, and the latter is assigned to the reduction of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> to FeO/Fe [36]. The H<sub>2</sub> consumption of the low temperature (LT, temperature below 400 °C) reduction peaks are calculated, and the Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> support shows the highest H<sub>2</sub> consumption (1.45 mmol g<sup>−1</sup>). In contrast, the mechanically mixed 1.3CrO<sub>3</sub>-0.7FeO<sub>x</sub> gives much lower H<sub>2</sub> consumption (0.39 mmol g<sup>−1</sup>). Such different reducibility of the supports is related to their structural properties and it seems that the Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> solid solution has the best reducibility. In contrast, the supported Pt catalysts show completely different profiles (Fig. 3b). The reduction temperature of the Pt catalysts systematically shift to lower temperatures due to the typical

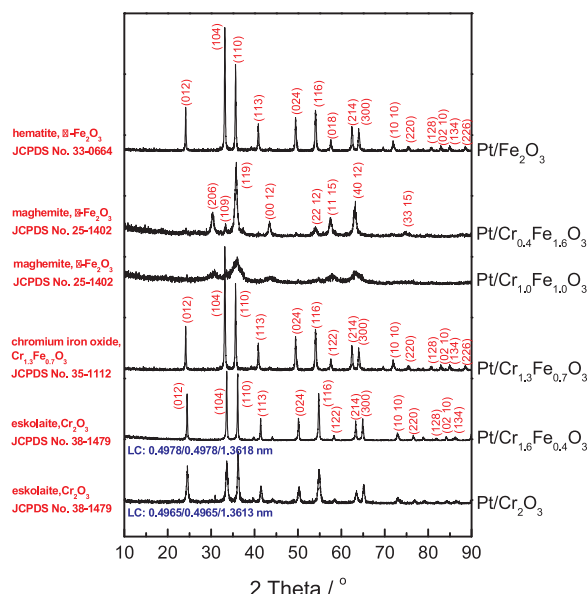
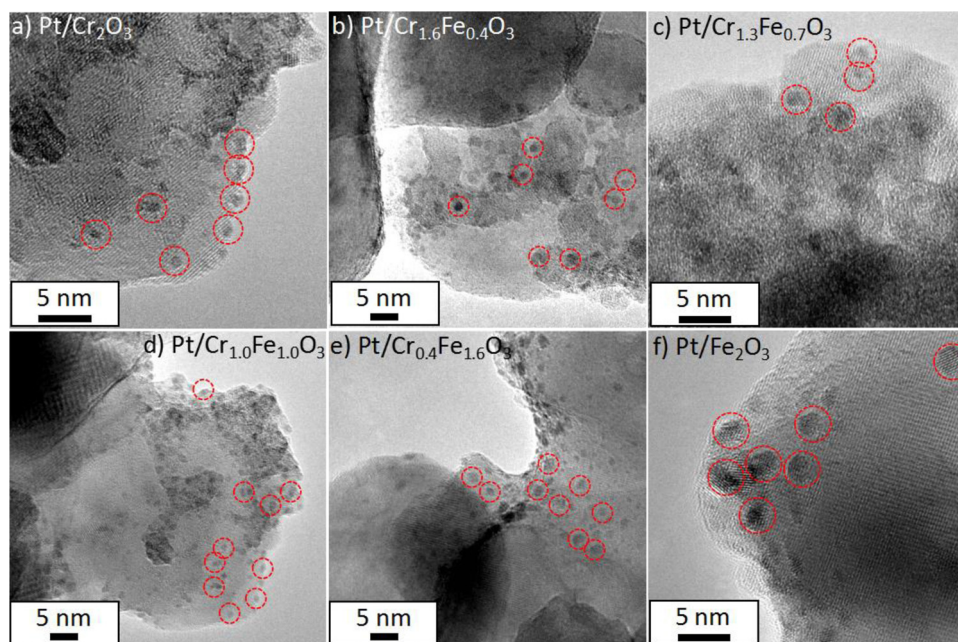


Fig. 1. XRD patterns of various supported Pt catalysts.



**Fig. 2.** HRTEM images of pre-reduced various Pt catalysts. Pt species are indicated by red circles. (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article).

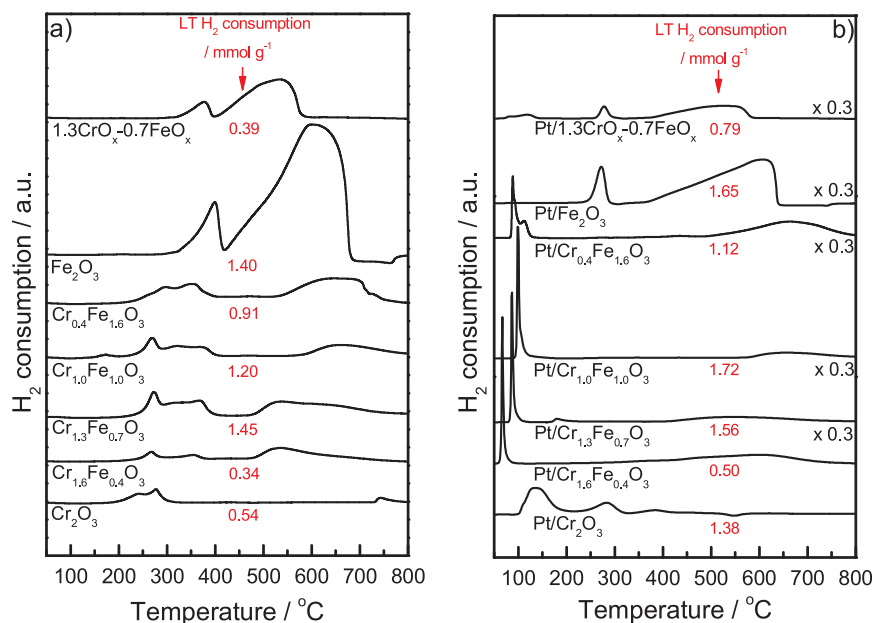
spillover effect. Particularly, the Pt/Cr<sub>1.6</sub>Fe<sub>0.4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pt/Cr<sub>1.0</sub>Fe<sub>1.0</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>0.4</sub>Fe<sub>1.6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts give sharp reduction peaks below 100 °C, suggesting greatly enhanced catalyst reducibility. Besides, the LT H<sub>2</sub> consumptions of the Pt catalysts are slightly higher than those of the corresponding supports, due to the reduction of Pt oxide. Note that the LT reduction peaks of the Pt catalysts also contain the reduction of support oxides because the maximal nominal H<sub>2</sub> consumption of Pt oxide in the catalysts are 0.2 mmol g<sup>-1</sup> (assuming the average Pt content in the catalyst is 2 wt.% and all the Pt species are PtO<sub>2</sub>), which is much lower than the obtained values.

The oxidation states of the Pt species in some representative catalysts (Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) were analyzed by XPS and the results are shown in Fig. S2. The Pt 4f<sub>5/2</sub> spectra of the catalysts give two resolved components at BEs of 72.6 and 74.9 eV assigning to

Pt<sup>2+</sup> and Pt<sup>4+</sup>, respectively [37,38]. Also it seems that the Pt<sup>4+</sup> species are dominant as its peak area is much larger than that of the Pt<sup>2+</sup>. The analyses of other elements (Fig. S3) reveal that the Cr species are mainly Cr<sup>3+</sup> (with a small portion of Cr<sup>6+</sup>), the Fe species are mainly Fe<sup>3+</sup> and O species are in forms of adsorbed surface oxygen and lattice oxygen. After pre-reduction, the Pt 4f<sub>5/2</sub> spectrum of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Fig. S2) gives a component at BE of 71.2 eV assigning to Pt<sup>0</sup> accompanied by the decline in the intensity of Pt<sup>4+</sup> species, indicating that some Pt<sup>4+</sup> species were reduced during the pre-reduction.

### 3.2. CO oxidation under different conditions

Fig. 4 illustrates the performance of the catalysts at reaction temperature of 80 °C under various reaction conditions. 1. Under 1%



**Fig. 3.** H<sub>2</sub>-TPR profiles of various supports and Pt catalysts.



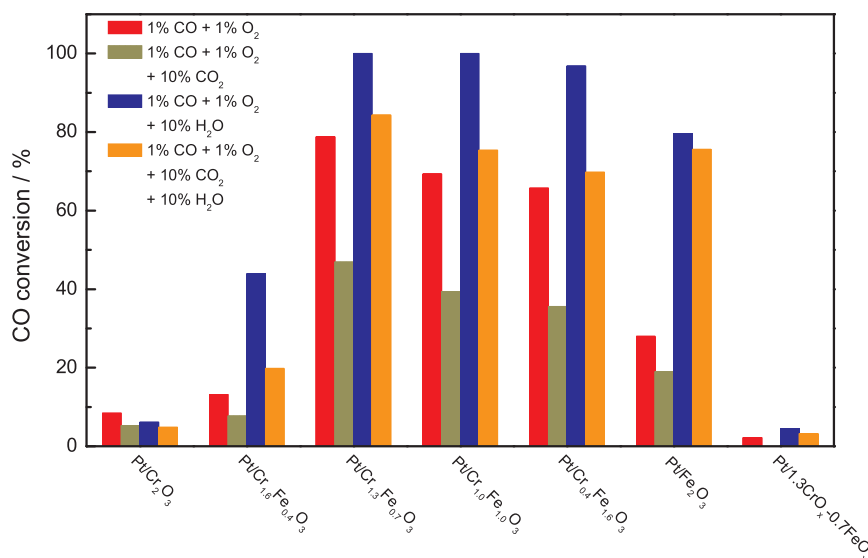


Fig. 4. Catalytic performance of various Pt catalysts under different reaction conditions. (T = 80 °C, data taken after 1 h reaction).

CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> condition, the Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst shows very low CO conversion (8.5%); while the addition of Fe in the support significantly improves the activity, and the CO conversion reaches a maximum at the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst (78.8%); but the Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst is less active (28.0%). The specific reaction rate of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst is  $5.45 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{Pt}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and the turnover frequency (TOF) is  $0.203 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . These values are higher than those reported in literature (i.e.  $6.56 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{Pt}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.023 \text{ s}^{-1}$  on a Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst [39];  $2.48 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{Pt}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.0048 \text{ s}^{-1}$  on a Pt/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst [40];  $6.69 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{Pt}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.166 \text{ s}^{-1}$  on a Pt/CoO<sub>x</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst [41];  $2.01 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{Pt}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.061 \text{ s}^{-1}$  on a Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub>-101 catalyst [42];  $8.65 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol}^{-1} \text{ g}_{\text{Pt}}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.017 \text{ s}^{-1}$  on a Pt/θ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst [43]). The TOFs of other catalysts are also summarized in Table 1. It is also noted that the Pt/1.3CrO<sub>x</sub>-0.7FeO<sub>x</sub> is much less active than the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, which reflects the advantage of the Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> support.

2. Under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> + 10% CO<sub>2</sub> condition, drastic decline in activity are observed on all catalysts. 3. Under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O condition, the activity could be greatly improved, except for the Pt/CrO<sub>x</sub> catalyst. The possible water gas shift (WGS) reaction is ruled out because the reaction between CO and H<sub>2</sub>O is negligible when the reaction temperature is below 120 °C (Fig. S4). 4. Under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> + 10% CO<sub>2</sub> + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O condition, the activity is lower than that in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O alone, but it is still higher than that under the 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> condition. The light-off curves of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different reaction conditions are shown in Fig. S5, which further confirms the inhibiting role of CO<sub>2</sub> and the promoting role of H<sub>2</sub>O at temperature range of 40–120 °C. The thermal stability of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst is also investigated. As shown in Fig. S6, the activity of the catalyst calcined at 600 °C is less active than that calcined at 300 °C, probably due to the sintering of Pt particles and/or the structural change of the support under high temperature. Nevertheless, the aged catalyst is still tolerant to high concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O.

The different behaviors of the catalysts under CO + O<sub>2</sub> condition are worth of a discussion. CO oxidation over metal supported on reducible oxides has been extensively investigated in literature, and it is well recognized that the CO oxidation takes place via a metal-support interfacial route, in which the metal species provide centers for CO chemisorption while the support oxides provide centers for O<sub>2</sub> activation or the lattice oxygen of the support directly participate in the reaction [44–47]. However, the roles of the metal and supports in the reaction are rather complicated. For example, the interaction between the metal and support would change the morphology, particle size and the electronic properties of the metal, which could significantly affect

the observed catalytic behaviors [48]. Moreover, the properties of the support such as surface area, crystal structure and exposed facet could also exert remarkable impacts on the catalytic behaviors. Supports with high surface areas are usually beneficial for the dispersion of metal species and thus small particle size. Also, it was reported that crystal structure of the support is important. Zhao et al. [49] compared the performance of Au, Pt and Rh supported on γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and α-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and they found that the catalysts on γ-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> are more active than those on α-Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, due to their higher redox properties at low temperature. The catalysts employed in this work are very different due to various supports, and thus it is difficult to establish a precise structure-performance correlation. Nevertheless, a brief discussion on the roles of support in determining the properties of metal particles and catalyst reducibility could be made, since these parameters are very important in governing the activity [50]. First of all, it is found that the Pt particle sizes in the catalysts are similar (ca. 2 nm, Table 1, except for the Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> where the Pt particle size is about 2.6 nm) in spite of very different surface areas (17–52 m<sup>2</sup> g<sup>-1</sup>), suggesting that the supports with different surface areas barely alter the Pt dispersion. However, the supports change the electronic properties of the Pt species, as the XPS results (Fig. S2) clear show that the fresh Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts contain mostly Pt<sup>4+</sup> species while the Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> contains a mixture of Pt<sup>2+</sup> and Pt<sup>4+</sup> species. Second, the catalyst reducibility is indeed significantly affected by the crystal phase and surface area of the support, which is clearly evidenced by the H<sub>2</sub>-TPR results (Fig. 3). On one hand, the H<sub>2</sub> consumption of the catalyst roughly follows the surface area (the catalyst with higher surface area generally has higher H<sub>2</sub> consumption, Fig. 3b), probably due to more defects on the high-surface-area support because of its smaller crystallite size. On the other hand, the supports with different surface areas remarkably change the initial reduction temperatures of the catalysts, although no obvious relation could be established. Fig. 5 illustrates the correlation between LT - H<sub>2</sub> consumption, initial reduction temperature and TOFs of the catalysts. It seems that the activity of the catalyst is synergistically influenced by the two parameters. The catalysts (i.e. Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, Pt/Cr<sub>0.4</sub>Fe<sub>1.6</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>1.0</sub>Fe<sub>1.0</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) with both low initial reduction temperatures (easy oxygen activation) and high H<sub>2</sub> consumptions (high amount of active oxygen) are more active. In contrast, other catalysts with high H<sub>2</sub> consumption but high initial reduction temperature (i.e. Pt/Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), or low initial reduction temperature but low H<sub>2</sub> consumption (i.e. Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and Pt/Cr<sub>1.6</sub>Fe<sub>0.4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) are less active. Such correlation reflects the importance of the enhanced reducibility (low reduction temperature and high H<sub>2</sub> consumption) by the CrO<sub>x</sub>-FeO<sub>x</sub> interaction, which could

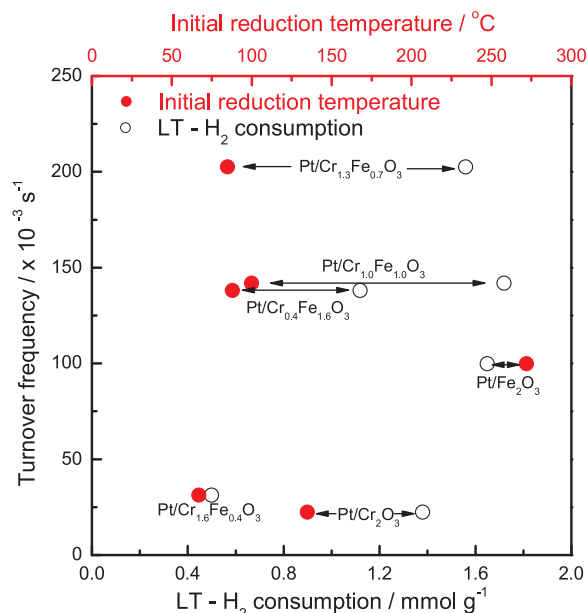


Fig. 5. Correlation between LT - H<sub>2</sub> consumption, initial reduction temperature and turnover frequency of various Pt catalysts at 80 °C.

explain the best performance observed on the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst. Moreover, this correlation highlights the roles of the support properties (such as crystal phase, surface area and crystallite size) in determining the catalytic behaviors.

The inhibiting role of CO<sub>2</sub> in the reaction was investigated, taken the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst as an example. As shown in Fig. 6a, the catalyst is stable for at least 10 h reaction under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> + 10% CO<sub>2</sub> + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O condition, while it gradually deactivates under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> condition. The maintained stability in the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O brings good potential for practical application in realistic conditions. The deactivation of the catalyst under 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> condition was further investigated via staged reaction. As shown in Fig. 6b, the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst is stable in the first 2 h reaction under CO + O<sub>2</sub> with the CO conversion of c.a. 72% (stage 1). When 10% of CO<sub>2</sub> is introduced in the feed stream, the activity rapidly decreases in the following 6 h with the CO conversion of c.a. 22% (stage 2), suggesting the deactivation of catalyst. Then, the CO<sub>2</sub> was removed from the feed stream and the reactants were restored to CO + O<sub>2</sub> (stage 3). The initial CO conversion increases to c.a. 30% but it starts declining

after 1 h reaction. The observations in stage 1–3 reflects that the inhibiting role of CO<sub>2</sub> might be attributed to the following facts: 1, competitive adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> with CO could take place, and thus occupy the active sites. However, the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> seems reversible because the activity could be partly recovered. Such competitive adsorption will be further discussed based on the kinetic results. 2, the formation of surface carbonate species during the reaction which would block the active sites [51,52]. After the reaction gases were stop and the catalyst was treated with 10% H<sub>2</sub>O vapor at 80 °C for 1 h (stage 4), the catalytic activity could be fully recovered (stage 5). This indicates that the introduction of H<sub>2</sub>O could effectively decompose the surface carbonate species and thus restore the activity [25].

To explain the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O in the reaction, surface species of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst in situ pretreated under different conditions were analyzed by XPS and the results are shown in Fig. 7. The C 1s spectra (Fig. 7a) show two distinct components at BEs of 284.8 and 288.4 eV, which are assigned to adventitious carbon and carbonate [53]. Also, the surface composition of the carbonate increases from 27.4% in the pre-reduced sample to 39.8% after being treated with 10% CO<sub>2</sub> at 80 °C for 1 h, which indicates the formation of surface carbonates. When this sample was further treated with 10% water vapor at 80 °C for 1 h, the surface carbonate declines to 25.7%, suggesting that H<sub>2</sub>O can effectively decompose the surface carbonate. As for the O 1s spectra (Fig. 7b), all the spectra show one dominant component at BE of 529.9 eV and two weak components at BEs of 531.5 and 533.0 eV, which are assigned to lattice oxygen, surface hydroxyl groups and surface carbonates, respectively [54,55]. Also, the surface composition of carbonate oxygen increases from 7.6 to 11.8% after the CO<sub>2</sub> treatment while it significantly declines to 2.7% after the subsequent H<sub>2</sub>O treatment, again confirming the decomposition of surface carbonate by H<sub>2</sub>O addition. Moreover, the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O remarkably increases the concentration of surface hydroxyl group, as the highest value (29.2%) was obtained (note that the increased hydroxyl concentration 23.9% after CO<sub>2</sub> treatment might be due to the low content of H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed). Therefore, these XPS results clearly clarify the observed catalytic behaviors in Fig. 6. In addition, the formation of surface hydroxyl groups by H<sub>2</sub>O addition is also evidenced, probably due to H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation on the catalyst surface [56].

Figure S7 shows the Pt 4f spectra of the spent Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different conditions. The spent catalyst under CO + O<sub>2</sub> and CO + O<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub> conditions shows dominantly oxidized Pt species (Pt<sup>2+</sup> and Pt<sup>4+</sup>), while it shows the maintenance of metallic Pt<sup>0</sup> species under H<sub>2</sub>O-containing conditions. These results indicate that the metallic Pt<sup>0</sup> after the pre-reduction (Table S1) could be re-oxidized in the presence

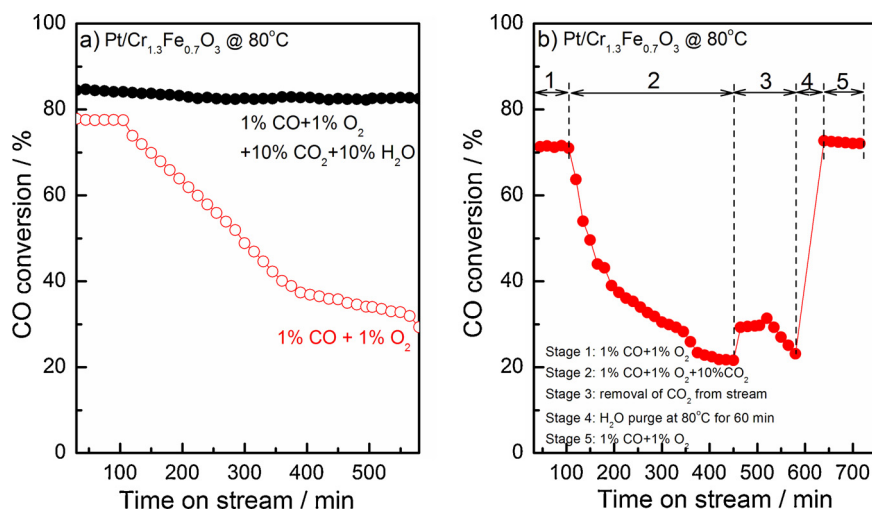


Fig. 6. a) Stability of Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under CO + O<sub>2</sub> and CO + O<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O conditions; b) Catalytic behaviors of Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different reaction conditions. S.V. = 120000 ml g<sup>-1</sup> h<sup>-1</sup>.

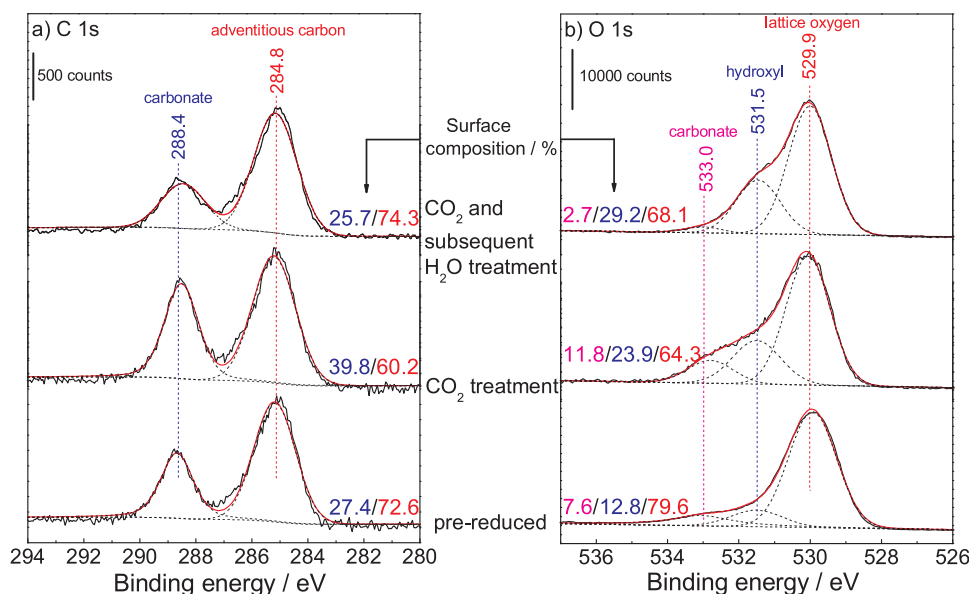


Fig. 7. a) C 1s and b) O 1s XPS spectra of Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst in situ pretreated under different conditions.

of O<sub>2</sub>. Somehow, the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed could retain such metallic Pt species even in the presence of O<sub>2</sub>. The presence of Pt<sup>0</sup> species under H<sub>2</sub>O-containing environment might be one reason for the enhanced activity, as it was reported that the metallic Pt species are more active than the oxidized Pt species [57].

CO-TPD experiments were conducted on the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst to investigate the adsorption behaviors of the reactants on the catalyst. For the pre-reduced catalyst (Fig. 8a), the pre-adsorption of 1% CO results in distinct desorption of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> at about 75 °C, and the formation of CO<sub>2</sub> indicates the participation of lattice oxygen in the reaction. Additional O<sub>2</sub>-TPD experiments (Fig. S8) shows that the pre-reduced Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst gives a weak O<sub>2</sub> desorption signal at 330 °C, suggesting that the thermal depletion of oxygen is difficult. However, it should be noted that the depletion of lattice oxygen could be much easier when strong reducing agent (i.e. CO) is present, particularly at the metal-support interface. A similar scenario is that the active oxygen species in CO oxidation over a Au/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst are found

to be the surface lattice oxygen at the Au-TiO<sub>2</sub> interface, which could easily react with CO at low temperature (i.e. 80 °C) [42]. The involvement of lattice oxygen in the reaction will be further discussed based on the kinetic results in the next section. The pre-adsorption of 1% CO + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O results in desorption of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> emerges at 53 °C. However, the pre-adsorption of 1% CO + 10% CO<sub>2</sub> results in no desorption of CO in the temperature range of 50–300 °C, implying the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> in the feed dramatically suppresses the adsorption of CO on the surface. Compared to the case of pre-adsorption of 1% CO, the pre-adsorption of 1% CO + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O results in several differences. 1. The lower CO desorption temperature (53 versus 75 °C) suggesting that the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed somehow weakens the strength of CO-surface interaction and makes the CO easier to desorb. Indeed, the alleviation of CO self-poisoning on supported Pt catalyst by co-adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O was reported by Bergeld et al. [58]. 2. The peak areas of (CO + CO<sub>2</sub>) is smaller under pre-adsorption of 1% CO + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O than those under 1% CO pre-adsorption, indicating that H<sub>2</sub>O suppressed

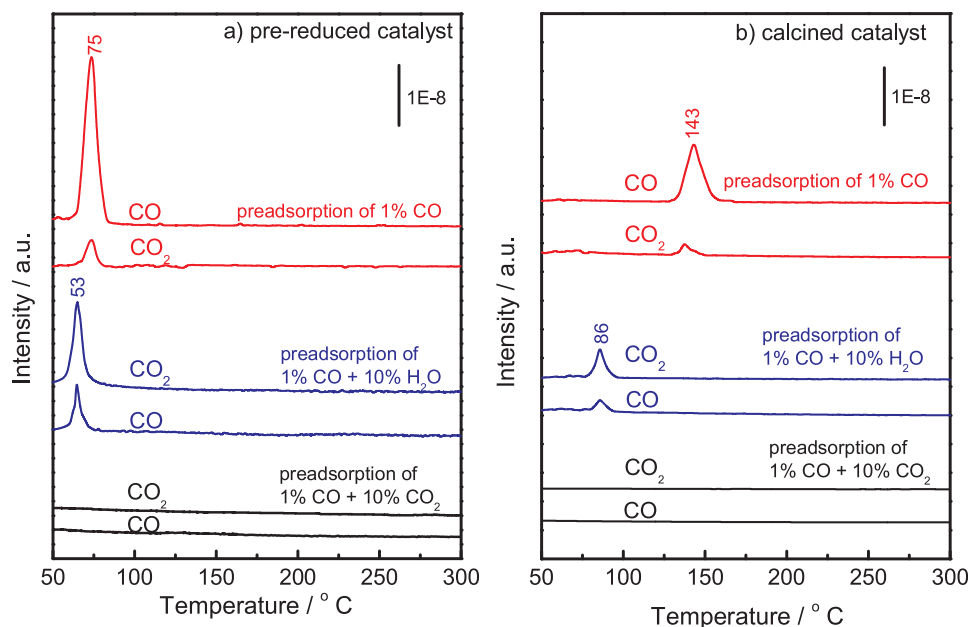


Fig. 8. CO-TPD profiles of a) pre-reduced and b) calcined Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under pre-adsorption of 1% CO, 1% CO + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O and 1% CO + 10% CO<sub>2</sub>.

the adsorption of CO. 3. The signal of CO<sub>2</sub> in case of 1% CO + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O pre-adsorption is stronger than that in case of 1% CO pre-adsorption, suggesting that H<sub>2</sub>O could effectively promotes the formation of CO<sub>2</sub>. For the calcined catalyst (Fig. 8b), the preadsorption of 1% CO results in simultaneous desorptions of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> at 143 °C, while the pre-adsorption of 1% CO + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O results in desorption of CO and CO<sub>2</sub> at 86 °C. Again, the lowered desorption temperature on the latter case suggests the weakened CO adsorption strength (easier desorption of CO) and promoted CO oxidation activity (lower temperature for CO<sub>2</sub> formation) in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O, but the lower signal intensity implies the suppression of CO adsorption in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O which is similarly observed on the pre-reduced catalyst. Moreover, the comparison of Fig. 8a and b clearly reflects the following facts. 1. The adsorption amount on the calcined catalyst is much lower than that on the pre-reduced one, due to the lack of metallic Pt species in the calcined catalyst which easily adsorb CO molecules (Fig. S2) [57]. 2. The higher desorption temperature of CO<sub>2</sub> on the calcined catalyst indicates that calcined catalyst is less active than the pre-reduced one, due to the presence of Pt oxide in the calcined catalyst [57]. Indeed, the light-off curves of the pre-reduced and calcined 2Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst (Fig. S9) show that the pre-reduced catalyst is more active than the calcined one under any reaction conditions.

### 3.3. Kinetic study

Reaction kinetics were employed on the representative Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst to further clarify its intrinsic catalytic behaviors and the roles of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O in the reaction. First, the role of CO<sub>2</sub> was investigated. Based on the results in Table S2, the power law rate expression is  $r = 1.61 \times 10^{-6} [\text{CO}]^{0.79} [\text{O}_2]^{0.06} [\text{CO}_2]^{-0.23}$ , and the negative reaction order of CO<sub>2</sub> suggests CO<sub>2</sub> could inhibit the activity. In contrast, the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O (without CO<sub>2</sub> in the feed, Table S3) leads to a power law rate expression of  $r = 3.21 \times 10^{-6} [\text{CO}]^{0.72} [\text{O}_2]^{0.08} [\text{H}_2\text{O}]^{0.25}$ , and the positive reaction order of H<sub>2</sub>O clearly suggests its promoting role in the reaction. We also investigated the effect of H<sub>2</sub>O on the reaction order of CO<sub>2</sub>. Based on the kinetic data in Table S4, under the reaction condition of 1% CO + 1% O<sub>2</sub> + 10% H<sub>2</sub>O, the reaction rate declines with increasing CO<sub>2</sub> content in the feed stream. However, the reaction order of CO<sub>2</sub> is  $-0.11 \pm 0.01$  (Fig. S10), which is slightly higher than that under dry condition ( $-0.23$ ). This means the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed stream suppresses the adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> on the catalyst surface and thus alleviates the inhibiting role of CO<sub>2</sub>, which are consistent with the observed catalytic behaviors (Fig. 4).

Table 2 summarizes the apparent reaction constant ( $k_{\text{app}}$ ) and reaction orders of CO and O<sub>2</sub> of the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different reaction conditions at 60 °C (See Table S5 and Fig. S11 for details). Compared to the CO + O<sub>2</sub> condition, the  $k_{\text{app}}$  declines to  $1.61 \times 10^{-6}$  in the presence of 10% CO<sub>2</sub>; while the values become higher in the presence of 10% H<sub>2</sub>O ( $3.08\text{--}3.21 \times 10^{-6}$ , with or without the presence of 10% CO<sub>2</sub>). Concerning the reaction orders, the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> and/or H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed results in higher reaction order of CO ( $0.72\text{--}0.79$  versus  $0.39$ ), while it hardly changes that of O<sub>2</sub> (near zero).

**Table 2**

Kinetic results of Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different reaction conditions.

Pt/Cr <sub>1.3</sub> Fe <sub>0.7</sub> O <sub>3</sub> T = 60 °C $r = k_{\text{app}} [\text{CO}]^a [\text{O}_2]^b$				
Reaction conditions	$k_{\text{app}} / \times 10^{-6}$	a	b	Ea / kJ mol <sup>-1</sup>
CO + O <sub>2</sub>	2.68	$0.39 \pm 0.05$	$0.04 \pm 0.01$	$26.4 \pm 1.5$
CO + O <sub>2</sub> + 10 % CO <sub>2</sub>	1.61	$0.79 \pm 0.06$	$0.06 \pm 0.01$	$27.8 \pm 2.1$
CO + O <sub>2</sub> + 10 % H <sub>2</sub> O	3.21	$0.72 \pm 0.08$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$	$15.5 \pm 1.1$
CO + O <sub>2</sub> + 10 % CO <sub>2</sub> + 10 % H <sub>2</sub> O	3.08	$0.78 \pm 0.09$	$0.05 \pm 0.01$	$19.4 \pm 1.4$

The validity of the parameters are confirmed by the parity plots and residual analyses (Table S6) and the calculated Eas (Table 2) reveal that the Ea is  $26.4 \pm 1.5$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> under CO + O<sub>2</sub>, which is slightly lower than that in the presence of 10% CO<sub>2</sub> in the feed ( $27.8 \pm 2.1$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>) but much higher than those in the presence of 10% H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed ( $15.5 \pm 1.1$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for the addition of 10% H<sub>2</sub>O, and  $19.4 \pm 1.4$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup> for the addition of 10% H<sub>2</sub>O + 10% CO<sub>2</sub>), which further confirms the inhibiting effect of CO<sub>2</sub> and the promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O.

Based on the above results, the elementary steps of CO oxidation under various conditions could be deduced. The mechanisms of CO oxidation over supported Pt catalysts have been extensively investigated in literature, which could be categorized into two groups. When Pt is supported on inert oxides such as SiO<sub>2</sub> and Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, the reaction pathways usually involve competitive or non-competitive adsorption of CO and O<sub>2</sub> on the surface Pt atoms [59–61]. In contrast, when Pt is supported on reducible oxides such as CeO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and TiO<sub>2</sub>, the reaction is believed to take place at metal-support interface (so-called “interfacial reaction”), which usually involves a reaction of CO chemisorbed on surface Pt atoms and the oxygen species chemisorbed on the support [39] or lattice oxygen provided by the support [42]. In the latter case (participation of lattice oxygen), the reaction order of oxygen is zero and thus a Mars van-Krevelen mechanism (M–K mechanism) is proposed [42]. The current results show that the reaction orders of O<sub>2</sub> under various conditions remain zero, which implies that the CO oxidation over the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst may follow a M–K mechanism. Therefore, elementary steps under CO + O<sub>2</sub> or CO + O<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub> condition are proposed and summarized in Table 3.

For the reaction under CO + O<sub>2</sub> condition, the steps mainly include CO chemisorption on the surface Pt atom (eq. 1); the reaction between chemisorbed CO and lattice oxygen to form CO<sub>2</sub> (eq. 2); desorption of CO<sub>2</sub> from Pt surface (eq. 3); replenishment of oxygen vacancy by gaseous O<sub>2</sub> (eq. 4). Eq. 2 is considered as the rate determining step (RDS) and thus the rate expression is

$$r = kK_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} [\text{M-O}] / (1 + K_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} + K_{\text{CO}_2}P_{\text{CO}_2}),$$

where [M–O] is the concentration of lattice oxygen on the catalyst surface (calculated to be 0.37, based on the XPS results in Table S1),  $K_{\text{CO}}$  and  $K_{\text{CO}_2}$  are the adsorption equilibrium constants of CO and CO<sub>2</sub>,

**Table 3**

Proposed elementary steps on Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different conditions.

Under CO + O <sub>2</sub> or CO + O <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub>	
$2[\text{CO} + \text{Pt}^* \xrightleftharpoons{K_{\text{CO}}} \text{CO} - \text{Pt}]$	(eq. 1)
$2[\text{CO} - \text{Pt} + \text{M} - [\text{O}] \xrightarrow{k} \text{CO}_2 - \text{Pt} + \text{M} - []]$	(eq. 2) RDS
$2[\text{CO}_2 - \text{Pt} \xrightleftharpoons{K_{\text{CO}_2}^{-1}} \text{CO}_2 + \text{Pt}^*]$	(eq. 3)
$\text{O}_2 + 2\text{M} - [] \rightarrow 2\text{M} - [\text{O}]$	(eq. 4)
$2\text{CO} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{CO}_2$	Overall reaction
$r = kK_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} [\text{M} - \text{O}] / (1 + K_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} + K_{\text{CO}_2}P_{\text{CO}_2})$	Rate expression
Pt* refers to active site on Pt, M-[O] refers to lattice oxygen on the support	
Under CO + O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>a</sup>	
$2[\text{CO} + \text{Pt}^* \xrightleftharpoons{K_{\text{CO}}} \text{CO} - \text{Pt}]$	(eq. 1')
$2[\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{M} - [\text{O}] \xrightleftharpoons{K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}} \text{HO} - \text{M} - [\text{O}] - \text{H}]$	(eq. 2')
$2[\text{CO} - \text{Pt} + \text{HO} - \text{M} - [\text{O}] - \text{H} \xrightarrow{k} \text{COOH} - \text{Pt} + \text{M} - [\text{O}] - \text{H}]$	(eq. 3') RDS
$2[\text{COOH} - \text{Pt} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{Pt} - \text{H}]$	(eq. 4')
$2[\text{Pt} - \text{H} + \text{M} - [\text{O}] - \text{H} \rightarrow \text{Pt}^* + \text{M} - [] + \text{H}_2\text{O}]$	(eq. 5')
$2\text{M} - [] + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{M} - [\text{O}]$	(eq. 6')
$2\text{CO} + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{CO}_2$	Overall reaction
$r' = kK_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}}K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} / [(1 + K_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}}) \times (1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})]$	Rate expression
Pt* refers to active site on Pt, M-[O] refers to lattice oxygen on the support	

<sup>a</sup>: The eqs. 1' – 6' only represent those H<sub>2</sub>O-assisted steps.



**Table 4**

Derived kinetic parameters of Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different reaction conditions (T = 60 °C).

Reaction conditions	$k \times 10^{-5} / \text{mol g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	$K_{\text{CO}} / \text{kPa}^{-1}$	$K_{\text{CO}_2} / \text{kPa}^{-1}$	$K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} / \text{kPa}^{-1}$
CO + O <sub>2</sub>	1.43	1.25	–	–
CO + O <sub>2</sub> + CO <sub>2</sub>	0.89	0.12	11.1	–
CO + O <sub>2</sub> + H <sub>2</sub> O	4.50	0.15	–	11.1

respectively. The reaction rate increases with increasing partial pressure of CO but decreases with increasing partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub>, which is consistent with the observed kinetics. Furthermore, the kinetic parameters were derived using a non-linear regression method using the data in Table S2. As shown in Table 4, under CO + O<sub>2</sub> condition, note that the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the reaction is very low because of the low CO conversion, and thus the  $r = kK_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} [M-O] / (1 + K_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} + K_{\text{CO}_2}P_{\text{CO}_2})$  could be simplified to  $r = kK_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}} [M-O] / (1 + K_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}})$ . The calculated rate constant  $k$  is  $1.43 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ , and the adsorption equilibrium constant of CO ( $K_{\text{CO}}$ ) is  $1.25 \text{ kPa}^{-1}$ . Under the condition of CO + O<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub>, the rate constant  $k$  declines to  $0.89 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ , and the  $K_{\text{CO}}$  declines to  $0.12 \text{ kPa}^{-1}$ ; meanwhile, the adsorption equilibrium constant of CO<sub>2</sub> ( $K_{\text{CO}_2}$ ) is  $11.1 \text{ kPa}^{-1}$ . Such phenomenon could be explained by the competitive adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> with CO on the Pt surface, which leads to declined coverage of CO and thus declined activity.

It is interesting that the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O improves the activity although it causes a lowered CO coverage as the CO reaction order increases from 0.39 to 0.72. Such competitive adsorption between CO and H<sub>2</sub>O is confirmed by the CO-TPD results (Fig. 8b), suggesting that H<sub>2</sub>O could adsorb on the surface Pt atoms. Since the WGS reaction is ruled out at low reaction temperature (Fig. S4) and the  $E_a$  value ( $15.5 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , Table 2) in the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O is much lower than that in the absence of H<sub>2</sub>O ( $26.4 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , Table 2), it could be expected that H<sub>2</sub>O may participate in the reaction and thus open a pathway. In fact, the promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O in CO oxidation has been reported [62–65]. For example, theoretical findings reported by Wang et al. [66] and Gong et al. [67] suggest a reaction between CO molecule and the hydroxyl group (-OH) formed by dissociation of H<sub>2</sub>O on Pt(111) is much easier compared to that between CO and surface O species. However, in the current work, the reaction between CO and -OH group (both on surface Pt sites) could be ruled out because otherwise similar promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O could also have been observed on the Pt/Cr<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst. Alternatively, interfacial reaction between CO (on Pt atoms) and -OH groups (dissociated on oxide support) has been proposed to explain the promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O, which has been experimentally confirmed by Jin et al. [23] and Lin et al. [68], on a model FeO(111)/Pt(111) catalyst and a practical Ir/Fe(OH)<sub>x</sub> catalyst, respectively. In a very recent work by Wang et al. [24], CO oxidation was conducted over a single Pt atom Pt<sub>1</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst and the promoting role of H<sub>2</sub>O was attributed to the facile interfacial reaction between CO (on single Pt atom) and the -OH group (on CeO<sub>2</sub> support) from dissociated H<sub>2</sub>O with a carboxyl intermediate, which followed a reaction pathway so called “water-mediated Mars - van Krevelen mechanism” [24]. In contrast, the H<sub>2</sub>O-driven formation of hydroperoxyl species (-OOH) have been reported recently [26,69]. Ojeda et al. [26] concluded that H<sub>2</sub>O acts as a co-catalyst essential for O<sub>2</sub> activation and for catalyst stability in CO oxidation over Au and Pt catalysts, and the formation of hydroperoxy intermediates (-OOH) is responsible for the improvement of activity. The authors also derived a rate expression of  $r = \alpha(P_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{O}_2}P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})^{2/3} / [1 + K_1P_{\text{CO}} + K_2P_{\text{O}_2} + K_3P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}]^2$ , in which the reaction rate depends on the concentrations of CO, O<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O, and the increase of O<sub>2</sub> partial pressure would enhance the rate [26]. However, such kinetic model is in conflict with the kinetics observed in the current work, as the reaction rate is independent on the partial pressure of O<sub>2</sub> (Table 2).

Based on the literature survey and the obtained kinetics, we believe that the relevant H<sub>2</sub>O-related kinetics mainly involve the dissociation of H<sub>2</sub>O and the formation of -OH species on the support. In the current work, the possible formation of surface hydroxyl group induced by H<sub>2</sub>O is confirmed by the XPS results (Fig. 7b). Accordingly, the elementary steps under CO + O<sub>2</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O are proposed in Table 3. The reaction sequences include the chemisorption of CO (eq. 1’); the formation of -OH species on the support via H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation (eq. 2’); interfacial reaction between CO and -OH to form carboxyl species (-COOH) (RDS, eq. 3’); decomposition of -COOH to CO<sub>2</sub> and -H (eq. 4’); reaction between -H and -OH to form H<sub>2</sub>O (eq. 5’) and replenishment of oxygen vacancy by gaseous O<sub>2</sub> (eq. 6’). If the CO chemisorption (eq. 1’) or the formation of -OH groups (eq. 2’) is the RDS, then the reaction rate would be respectively proportional to the partial pressure of CO or H<sub>2</sub>O, which is not consistent with the observed kinetics. On the other hand, a recent DFT calculation [24] on H<sub>2</sub>O-assisted CO oxidation over Pt<sub>1</sub>/CeO<sub>2</sub> catalyst reveals that the reaction between CO and -OH group needs a energy barrier of 0.48 eV and this step is the RDS, while the dehydrogenation of the carboxyl species (eq. 4’) is very fast (with a barrier of 0.16 eV). Therefore, the proposed elementary steps in the current work are reasonable. The resulting rate expression is  $r = kK_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}}K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} / [(1 + K_{\text{CO}}P_{\text{CO}})(1 + K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}P_{\text{H}_2\text{O}})]$

where  $K_{\text{CO}}$ ,  $K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$  are the adsorption equilibrium constants of CO and H<sub>2</sub>O, respectively. The expression predicts that the reaction rate would increase with increasing partial pressures of CO and H<sub>2</sub>O, which is consistent with the kinetic results (Table S3). The calculated kinetic parameters in Table 4 reveal that compared to those under CO + O<sub>2</sub> condition, the intrinsic rate constant  $k$  is increased by 3-fold ( $4.50 \times 10^{-5}$  versus  $1.43 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol g}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ ), which well explains the enhanced activity by the H<sub>2</sub>O addition. The CO adsorption equilibrium constant  $K_{\text{CO}}$  is decreased by 8-fold ( $0.15$  versus  $1.25 \text{ kPa}^{-1}$ ) while the adsorption equilibrium constant of H<sub>2</sub>O ( $K_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ ) is high ( $11.1 \text{ kPa}^{-1}$ ), which validates the competitive adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O and CO on the surface Pt atoms.

Therefore, the roles of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O in the CO oxidation over the Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst could be explicated. The deactivating effect of CO<sub>2</sub> is due to its competitive adsorption with CO and the formation of surface carbonates that block the active interfacial sites. On the contrary, the presence of H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed stream sustains the catalyst stability, owing to its capability to decompose the carbonates. Besides, the promoting effect of H<sub>2</sub>O in reactivity could be attributed to the following facts: 1, the addition of H<sub>2</sub>O remains metallic Pt<sup>0</sup> species in the catalyst; 2, co-adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O with CO on surface Pt atoms weakens the strength of CO chemisorption although it lowers the CO coverage on the Pt surface atoms; 3, the interfacial reaction between CO and -OH groups via H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation on the support surface. The reaction mechanisms under different conditions are illustrated in Fig. 9.

#### 4. Conclusions

The Pt/Cr<sub>x</sub>Fe<sub>2-x</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalysts are active for CO oxidation, and their behaviors are closely related to the reducibility of the catalysts. More importantly, these catalysts are tolerant to high concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O, which may meet the requirement of practical applications. Various experiments were conducted in order to clarify the roles of CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O in the reaction, and the main conclusions are as follows:

- 1 The addition of CO<sub>2</sub> in the feed leads to severe decline of activity and catalyst stability, owing to the competitive adsorption of CO<sub>2</sub> with CO and formation of carbonate species on catalyst surface.
- 2 The H<sub>2</sub>O in the feed could effectively decompose the surface carbonate and thus maintain the catalyst stability.
- 3 H<sub>2</sub>O molecules could adsorb on both surface Pt atoms and support surface, which could effectively improve the activity. The promoting role of H<sub>2</sub>O is due to the maintainance of metallic Pt<sup>0</sup> species in the

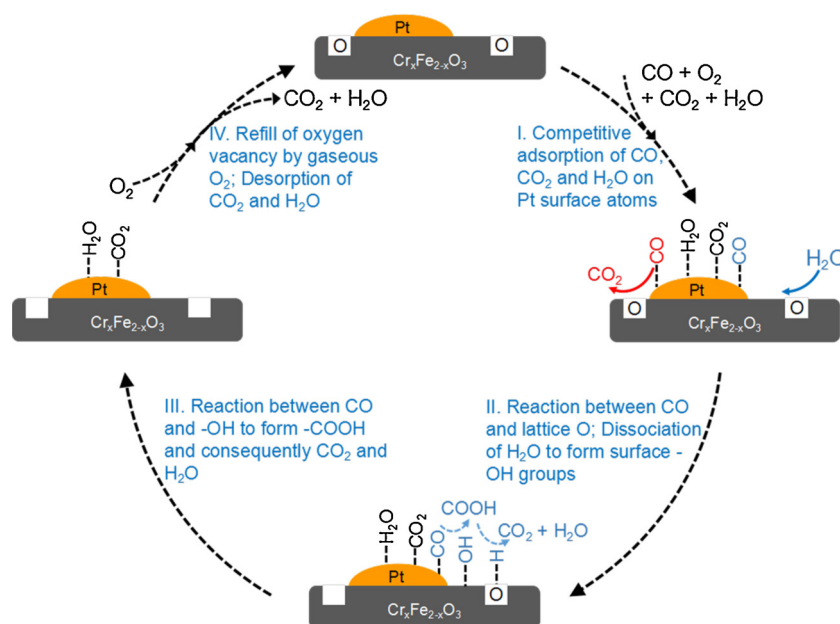


Fig. 9. Reaction pathways of CO oxidation over Pt/Cr<sub>1.3</sub>Fe<sub>0.7</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst under different conditions.

catalyst, the weakened CO adsorption strength by the competitive adsorption of H<sub>2</sub>O on the surface Pt atoms, and the fast interfacial reaction between CO and -OH groups formed via H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation on the support surface.

## Acknowledgement

This work is financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 21643007 and 21773212).

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apcatb.2018.12.054>.

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